

**In The Claims:**

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Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended). A stent having a plurality of segments and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state;

at least one connecting member connecting adjacent annular elements to form a plurality of cells, each cell having an area;

the stent having a first segment and a second segment, with the first segment having a plurality of combined adjacent cells that impart greater flexibility to the first segment than the second segment, wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 10 (Original). The stent of claim 9, wherein each annular element comprises a plurality of alternating struts and apices connected to each other to form a substantially annular configuration, and wherein the connecting members are connected to the apices of the adjacent annular members.

Claim 11 (Original). The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the longitudinal flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 12 (Original). The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the radial flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 13 (Original). The stent of claim 9, wherein the first and second segments are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent.

Claim 14 (Original). The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of Nitinol.

Claim 15 (Original). The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of a shape memory alloy.

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